

**Sullivan County Delegation:  
Executive Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**

May 14, 2010 8:30 AM

Location: Remington Woodhull County Complex  
14 Main Street, Newport NH 03773  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor – Commissioners' Conference Room

**EFC Members Present:** Representatives Suzanne Gottling, John Cloutier and Beverly Rodeschin.

**EFC Members Absent:** Representatives Jim McClammer & Philip "Joe" Osgood.

**County Elected Official and Employees Present:** High County Sheriff Michael Prozzo and County Administrator Greg Chanis.

**Public Present:** Ann Nielsen

EFC Chair, Rep. Gottling, called meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Mr. Chanis updated EFC on the County's budget situation. Said the situation hasn't changed much since his last briefing at the 4-19-10 Delegation meeting. Not sure whether County will get more stimulus funds.

Revenues are down, but so are expenses. Excluding Stimulus funds, County could end Fiscal Year 2010 with slight surplus, as of today. Also should be out of debt.

Said auditors had done a pre-audit for the County earlier this week and was informed by Dodi Violette that the pre-audit had gone well.

Added that the County shouldn't have to borrow money to help pay expenses until at least July or August 2010, thanks to Stimulus funds.

Then started reviewing the Commissioners' proposed Fiscal year 2011 budget in detail using budget books distributed to EFC.

Overall he said that, despite the fact that we don't have to pay down debt – decreased Medicaid funds from State, and increased health insurance premiums are the main reason for Commissioners' proposed budget increase. He added that Commissioners are proposing a 1.5% salary increase for non-union employees while union employees will receive a 3% salary increase as part of their union contract with the county.

Rep. Rodeschin asked Mr. Chanis if the Commissioners had asked the union employees to forgo their Fiscal year 2011 salary so as to help the County in these tough fiscal times.

Mentioned that Newport's unionized employees are forgoing their entitled salary increases this year. Mr. Chanis said the Commissioners earlier discussed asking the union to forgo such increase, but decided against doing so.

The Chair discussed the staffing situation at the DOC (Department of Corrections) with Mr. Chanis. Then she asked for further information from him about staffing and salaries in all County departments.

Mr. Chanis said cutting or adding about \$130,000 to the budget results in an either 1% decrease or increase to the County tax rate.

Mr. Chanis explained why he believes that the County shouldn't ask its unionized employees to forgo their entitled salary increases, like the Town of Newport did. Said that County would have to pay more for such a request in the long run.

Stated that most employee furloughs would be difficult because many are involved in direct care of Sullivan County Health Care patients or DOC inmates and would have to be replaced.

Rep. Rodeschin said she had questioned Mr. Chanis about union concerns at the request of several Delegation members, who weren't EFC members.

Mr. Chanis then reviewed the Commissioners proposal in regards to County grants on page 91 of the budget book, especially the proposed amount for [Community Alliance of Human Services] Community Transportation.

Mr. Chanis said he would look into how much employee concessions would save in the County budget. He added that not only does the Delegation set elected official salaries, but according to current State law, that it has to set the officials salaries.

High Sheriff Prozzo then discussed elected officials salaries in general. Said he was disturbed that the Delegation voted to set elected officials salaries at its 4-19-10 meeting without being present. Stated that he would have been present at the Delegation meeting if he had known that salaries would have been set. A decision by the Delegation that was to give a 0% salary increase.

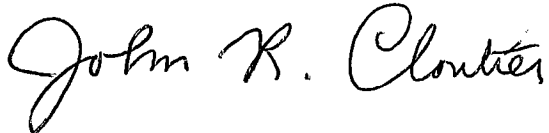
Said that elected officials should be treated like full time employees, and that they should not be forced to pay more for their benefits, which is basically a salary decrease. County should pay for these benefit increases. Publicly thanked Rep. Cloutier for making a motion to have EFC review elected officials salaries, and then make recommendations to the full Delegation; a motion, which was not seconded at the 4-19-10 Delegation meeting.

Rep. Rodeschin suggested that the 4-19-10 vote on salaries could be reconsidered, up until 6-2-10, because she was absent from that meeting. Rep. Cloutier said a Delegation member who voted "Yes" on the original 4-19-10 salaries motion would make the motion

to reconsider. It was agreed that the EFC's next meeting would be on Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 AM.

**Rep. Rodeschin moved. Rep. Cloutier seconded a motion to adjourn at 10:20 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John R. Cloutier". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "C".

John R. Cloutier, Acting Clerk  
Executive Finance Committee  
Sullivan County State Delegation